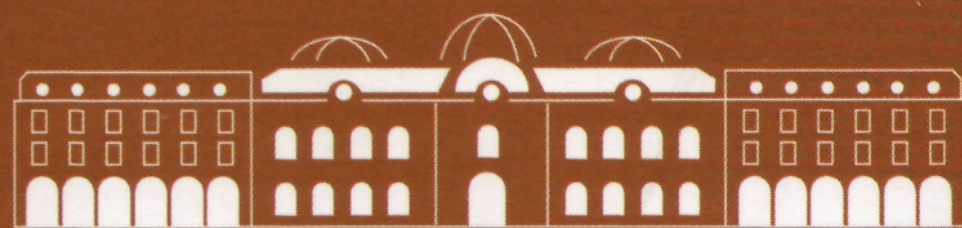


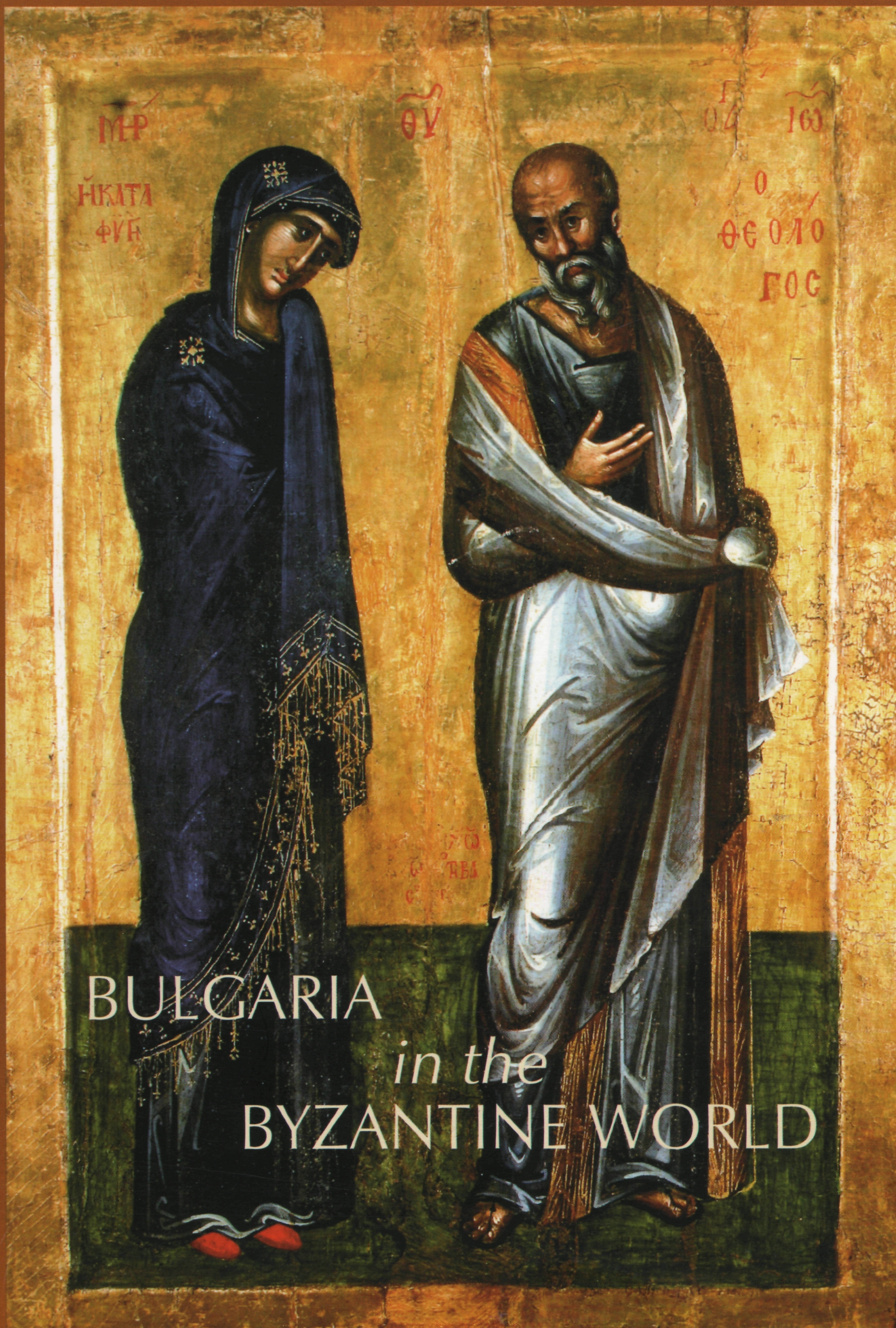


REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



1892 - 1921 - 1948

BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
WITH MUSEUM



Sofia, 2011

This catalogue is realized with the financial support
of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria

EXHIBITION

AUGUST 24TH – SEPTEMBER 30TH 2011



The exhibition is included in the program of the
**22nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF BYZANTINE STUDIES**
Sofia, 22–27 August 2011

NIAM – BAS, *Publisher*
Georgi Ivanov, *Production editor*
Nice AN Ltd., *Layout and print*
Sofia, 2011
ISBN: 978-954-9472-10-3

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA – THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY WITH MUSEUM
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

BULGARIA
in the
BYZANTINE WORLD

EXHIBITION

22ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF BYZANTINE STUDIES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY WITH MUSEUM – SOFIA

AUGUST 24TH – SEPTEMBER 30TH 2011

The exhibition is organized by the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences with the kind contribution of

National Museum of History – Sofia

Regional Museum of History – Haskovo

Regional Museum of History – Kardzhali

Regional Museum of History – Stara Zagora

Regional Museum of History – Varna

Regional Museum of History – Veliko Tarnovo

Museum of Archaeology – Veliki Preslav

Old Nessebar Museum

Museum of History - Chirpan

Museum of History – Pomorie

The exhibition has been accomplished by

Margarita Vaklinova, Bissera Tomova, Yordan Gatev, Snezhana Goryanova, Katya Melamed, and the Laboratory for analyses, concervation and restoration of NIAM – Sevdalina Neykova, Petya Penkova, Plamen Bonev, Maria Tasseva

Designer Elena Boyadzhieva, National Museum of History

The annotations in the Catalogue are work of

A. M. – Alexander Minchev

B. T. – Bissera Tomova

C. T. – Constantine Totev

D. K. – Daniela Kodzhemanova

D. Y. – Dimitar Yankov

E. B. - Elka Bakalova

G. G. – George Gerov

K. M. - Katya Melamed

L. D. – P. – Lyudmila Doncheva – Petkova

M. D. – Metodi Daskalov

M. I. – Mariela Inkova

M. V. – Margarita Vaklinova

P. D. – Peter Dimitrov

S. G. – Snezhana Goryanova

S. S. – Stanislav Stanilov

T. M. – Todor Marvakov

T. T. - Totyu Totev

Y. G. – Yordan Gatev

Y. B. – Yuliana Boycheva

Photographer Krassimir Georgiev

Translation Katya Melamed

PREFACE

WHY BULGARIA WITHIN THE BYZANTINE WORLD? For this area of the European space in which the Bulgarians found their homeland, belonged for good and all to a cultural circle setting its profound mark on the fate and culture of all the nations that created states during the Middle Ages.

Bulgaria, established in the seventh century, was all an enemy, an ally, a rival, and a partner of the Eastern Empire we name Byzantium. The seats in the Balkans became the ground of its culture where the Antiquity proceeded to the Middle Ages. There the deep-rooted traditions preserved their triumphs to transform them into an integral part and wealth of the new sovereigns of the territories of the Bulgarians.

Byzantium was the mightiest source of ideas, patterns, model examples and rivalry for the Bulgarians. Captivating its territory from the Empire, the new-born state became related with it, waged wars against it, clashed with it, adopted models in all the spheres of life or freed itself, fell under its impact still searching its friendship, or fought for supremacy. In the course of nearly two centuries (10th - 12th), it fell again within the state and political system of Byzantium as this circumstance enriched it still further on.

This quite complicated picture of the relations between Bulgaria and thousand of years old Empire, enriched by the spirits of its predecessors and the variegated ethno - cultural amalgamation of its heterogeneous population reflected on and can be illustrated by the material and artistic reaching.

Bulgaria belonged actively to the Medieval Christian world and shared its cultural values thanks again to its affiliation to the Byzantine circle. Thus, the territories of the future state of the Bulgarians have preserved till our day the trace of a large-scale development connected with the spread and recognition of the world religion. Temples and monasteries were set up even in the most secret recesses of the Byzantine Balkan provinces between 4th and 7th centuries. Today their ruins spring up from the soil, like St. Sophia in Serdica, the Old Metropolitan Church in Mesambria, the Red Church in Perushtitsa, or the basilica in Belovo, to let us appraise this soil as an artistic seat and integral part of the cultural commonwealth of Byzantium. The sculptural workshops on the Island of Prokonnesos in the Sea of Marmara worked for the decoration and furnishing of these elite edifices. The most exquisite pieces of work designed for the imperial constructions of the Capital city of Constantinople were employed as model examples. The light coming from the temple windows swept up the multi-colour mosaics on the floors and inspired life in scenes and images on the walls. The painted tombs in the necropolis of Serdica, the floor mosaic of St. Sophia Church, and the angels on the arches of the Red Church almost two hundred years later outline the course and the achievements of the artistic creation.

The artistic laboratory comprised the centers in these territories and thus created the culture of the Empire. Teams of architects and skillful man strayed far and wide to meet the requirements of various layers of the society. They employed to many replicas the models produced in the most prominent work-

shops in Byzantium. Rich imperial gifts or perhaps commissions of the Bulgarian aristocrats to the workshops in the Capital city or the major seats of the Empire gave splendour to life.

Veliki Preslav, the Capital city of Bulgaria in the course of less than a century, sensed most vigorously the cultural breath of Byzantium. The entire city was splendid – the buildings, the garments, the table, and the ceremonial adopted also from the Byzantine court. Even the scarce remains of the grandeur reveal the pursuit of reaching the prestige of Byzantium and leveling to it. The workshops for painted ceramics achieved acme, the stone tracery on the walls acquired the impression of chiaroscuro. Within the jewels and everyday objects we find the amalgamation of the Bulgarian vogue and taste, and the artistry and techniques of the Byzantine workshops.

The fabulous Preslav Treasure well illustrates this synthesis. The good fortune has bestowed the idea of the true level of luxury often described by the authors of the 10th century. It alone has survived the plunder – to show us the magnificent enamels and precious stones glowing on the gold of the crown and the necklace or the rest of the exquisite heavy jewels gathered in haste and buried into the ground to reach us and prove the myth. We have also the extraordinary cross – reliquary decorated with images and scenes executed in niello technique. Still another value is the pectoral icon with the image of St. Virgin Mary.

The significance of all that the Bulgarian collections treasure lies in its origins and its location in territories still covered by Bulgaria as they offer good possibilities for interpretation. This refers to the numerous artifacts of every day standards as well as to the technological inventions or the huge amount of coins and seals.

The artistic heritage and the works associated with the religious practice – liturgical objects, embroideries and painted holy images add a peculiar prestige to this exhibition. Four icons present the assembly of the most remarkable works of the easel painting known from the collections of the Bulgarian museums - the ceramic icon of St. Theodore from Veliki Preslav (10th century) – the only one known of its kind, the outstanding mosaic icon of St. Virgin Mary from Thrace – a precious imperial gift (13th – 14th century), the icon of St. Virgin from Nessebar in silver facing donated by the uncle of the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Alexander (1342), and the two - sided icon from Poganovo Monastery (14th century), incredible in its artistry. A gallery of painted images from the Church of St. Nicholas in Melnik, and wall paintings from churches and artifacts from the post-Byzantine Age shape the notion of this profound wealth and illustrate the eternal relationship between Bulgaria and Byzantium.

Here we may find the deep sense of the exhibition revealing the nature and the spirits of the Bulgarian Medieval culture.

Margarita Vaklinova



1. FLOOR MOSAIC FROM THE APSE OF ST. SOPHIA CHURCH IN SOFIA (SERDICA)

First half of the 4th century

Opus tessellatum, Opus vermiculatum; tesserae of fine-grain marble with grey and cream-coloured spots, red ferrous quartz, cream-coloured quartz, fine-grain calcareous sandstone, quartz in ochre, blue-greyish dolomite, greenish andesite, glass

2,70 x 2,60 x 0,10 m

Discovered during the archaeological research of St. Sophia Church in 1893, about 1 m below the floor. It decorated the apse of the earliest cemetery church in eastern Serdica necropolis.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 451

The mosaic depicts the early Christian notion of the Paradise – the Garden of Eden, composed of symbols.

K. M.

**2. WALL PAINTINGS FROM TOMBS IN THE NECROPOLIS OF SERDICA
3 fragments**

4th century

Fresco

0,72 x 1,04 x 0,25 m

0,55 x 0,80 x 0,16 m

1,05 x 0,93 m

From tombs in the Eastern Early Christian necropolis around St. Sophia Church in Sofia

NIAM – BAS, Inv. NN 3457, 3458

*Decorated with candelabra and wine sprouts.
K. M.*

3. WALL PAINTING WITH THE IMAGE OF AN ANGEL

A fragment

Triumphal Arch

First half of the 4th century

Fresco

1,40 x 1,60 m

A sector of the murals in the interior. Removed from the arch in the Red Church, Perushtitsa, Plovdiv region, in 1920ies

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2260

An Angel holds a medallion with Agnus Dei in hands raised above his head.

M. V.

4. EPITAPHS FROM THE EARLY CHRISTIAN NECROPOLIS OF SERDICA

5th – 6th centuries

4.1 MARBLE

39 x 43 x 2,2 cm

Inscription in Latin in 3 lines

+ HIC R ...VIESCIT / T. IOANNES FILIVS / QEORGIINLVSTRIS

Epitaph of T[itus] Ioanus, son of the illustrious Georgios

The inscription accompanied by a palmette and an ornament

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 349



6

4.2 MARBLE

21 x 51 x 5 cm

Inscription in Latin in 3 lines

+ HIC REQUIESCET UIR BE / ATISSIMUS / THEUPREPIUS / EPISCOP +

Epitaph of the most beatific man Theuprepus Bishop

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 348

4.3 MARBLE

24 x 26,5 x 2,5 cm

Inscription in Latin in 3 lines

+ DECIUS HIC / FAMULUS ... / ANDRAE

Epitaph of Decius, servant of Saint Andrew

An ivy leaf carved below the inscription

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 189

4.4 SANDSTONE

27 x 27 x 4,5 cm

Inscription in Latin in 4 lines

+ CONTANTIA / NUSICEST POS / ITU- / SUTREQUI / ES CATIN CELI +

Epitaph of Constantine, interred to rest in heaven

A serpent carved below the inscription

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1469

K. M.

5. EPITAPH OF EUGENIA DEACONESS

Local work

June 12th 538

Marble

1,18 x 0,65 x 0,08 m

13-line inscription in Greek:

*+ Ένθάδε κατάκ[ι]τε
Εὐγενία ἡ τῆς εὐλ[α]βουζ
μνήμης γεναμένη δ[ι]ακόνισσα
οἰκοδομήσασα δόμο[ν] τοῦ
ἐνδόξου ἀποστόλου Ἀνδρέ-
ου κ(ἐ) ἐν σεμνῇ πολιτίᾳ [τε-
λέσασα τὸν βίον μη(νὶ)
Ἰουνίῳ βι' ἰνδ(ικτιῶνι) α' βασιλί-
ας τοῦ θιοτ(άτου) κὲ εὐσεβ(εστάτου) ἡ[μ]ῶν
δεσπό(του) Φλ(αβίου) Ἰουστινιαν[οῦ]
τοῦ αἰωνίου Ἀγ(ούστου) κ(ἐ) Αὐτοκρ[ά-]*

τορος έτους βι' υπατίας Φλ[αβίου
Ἰωάννου τοῦ λαμπρο(στάτου).+.

Here rests Eugenia who died as a deaconess, once living in the house (= church) of the famous Apostle Andrew, and ending her pious life on 12th June, indictio I under the reign of our God-like and devout Emperor Flavius Justinian, great Augustus and Autocrat, when the Consul was Flavius Julius
Discovered at Nebush site, nearby the Mineral Baths of the village of Eleshnitsa, Blagoevgrad region, set up in the altar of the local church.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1510
K. M.

6. PORTRAIT OF A MAN

Local work out of a local stone

6th century

Sandstone

H. 26 cm; w. 11 cm; d. 19 cm

Discovered within the debris of a Byzantine fortress near Obzor (former Gyozecken, Kozyak grad), Burgas region.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3461

One of the rare world examples of the heroes of the new age – a stiff, universal mask covering a soul striving for the God.

K. M.

7. TWO THEODOSIAN CAPITALS

Workshop on the Island of Prokonnesos in the Sea of Marmara (?)

5th – 6th century

Marble

H. 39,5 cm; diam. 34,5 cm

The village of Maryan, Elena area, Lovech region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1599, 1602

K. M.

8. CAPITAL WITH HUMAN FACES

Local workshop

6th century

Sandstone

*H. 33 / 34 cm; diam. of the base 20 cm;
abacus 34 x 35 cm*

13



Discovered accidentally in the fields of the village of Belopoptsi, Sofia region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2119

K. M.

9. CAPITAL WITH HEADS OF RABBITS

Workshop on the Island of Prokonnesos in the Sea of Marmara

5th century

Marble

H. 40 cm; diam. 35 cm; abacus 41 x 41 cm

The capital entered the Museum in 1914 brought from the town of Obzor, Burgas region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1603

K. M.

10. CAPITAL WITH TWO CORNUCOPIAE

Local workshop

Late 5th – early 6th century

Limestone

H. 30 cm; diam. 39 cm; abacus 44 x 64 cm

Discovered in a Medieval church in the village of Lyutibrod, Vratsa region, together with 13 more Ionian Kaempfer capitals from the same date, now in the Museum of Vratsa.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2783

K. M.



14

11. BALCONY SLAB OF A PULPIT

Local work, Constantinople type

6th century

Grey sandstone

1,36 x 1,42 x 0,23 m

Discovered in Sofia, at the corner of Saborna and Kaloyan streets, during construction works. Probably the pulpit belonged to a church dedicated to St. George. The slab was found together with some fragments of the pulpit railings decorated with embossed crosses.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1039

K. M.

12. SLABS AND COLUMNS FROM ALTAR SCREENS A reconstruction

A PAIR OF SLABS

Workshops on the Island of Prokonnesos in the Sea of Marmara

5th – 6th century

Marble

1,15 x 0,93 x 0,14 m; 1,17 x 0,96 x 0,12 m

Discovered during archaeological research of a basilica in Hisar, Plovdiv region, next to the southern side entrance

NIAM – BAS, Inv. NN 1055, 1056

A PAIR OF COLUMNS

Workshops on the Island of Prokonnesos in the Sea of Marmara

6th century

Marble

H. 1,10; 0,25 x 0,23; h. 0,99; 0,21 x 0,21

Discovered in the fortress of Tsepina, the village of Dorkovo, Plovdiv region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. NN 3242, 3244

K. M.

13. RELIQUARY

Eastern Mediterranean

4th century

Alabaster

H. 12 cm; diam. of the body 7,4 cm; diam. of the opening 4 cm

Discovered in the altar area of an Early Christian basilica in Odessos (Varna) during archaeological research

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N II 1130*

*The reliquary is shaped as a flask.
A. M.*

14. RELIQUARY COMPLETE WITH TWO BOXES

Asia Minor (Syria)

5th century

Discovered in Dzhanavara, by the southern bank of the Varna Lake, 4 km southwest of Varna. A find of 1920 in the area of a church from the Early Christian age. It was in the altar, in a niche in the eastern wall of a small crypt built in bricks. The reliquary and the boxes were found undamaged in the church. The reliquary was in a fabric sack, the inner box was wrapped in dark cloth. The reliquary contained fragments of human bones and a piece of wood probably the Golgotha Cross, which turned



14.1

into ashes the minute they were uncovered and the air was let inside. The same church treasured other relics of saints found near the pulpit.

14.1. RELIQUARY

Gold, emeralds, sapphires, inlaid garnets
3,8 x 6,5 x 4,5 cm; 227,5 g

Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. III – 768

14.2. BOX

Silver
9,3 x 10 x 5,6 cm

Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. III – 767

14.3. BOX

Alabaster
15,5 x 22,4 x 15,5 cm

Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. III – 766

M. V.

15. RELIQUARY

Asia Minor

Second half of the 4th century

Silver

L. 4,8 cm; w. 3 cm; h. 2,8 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: on the lid: OMO NOIA (concordance, harmony); next to Jesus and each of the saints presented: IHC OYC, ΠΕ ΤΡ ΟC, ΠΑΥ ΛΟC, ΑΝ ΔΡΕ ΑC, ΦΙΛ[Ι]ΠΠΟC, [ΙΟ]Υ[Δ]ΑC, ΙΑΚ ΩΒ ΟC, ΜΑΘΕΟC, [ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜ]Ε[Ο]C, ΙΩΑΝ ΝΙC – Jesus, Peter, Paul, Andrew, Philip, Judas, Jacob, Mathew, Bartholomew, John.

Found accidentally in the foundations of a building, possibly a basilica, in the village of Yabalkovo, Haskovo region, in 1930. According to its discoverer, the silver reliquary was lying in a ceramic container also inscribed, and yet lost before coming to the Museum.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2519



15a



15b



16



17

Relief representations of St. St. Constantine the Great and Elena on both sides of a Latin cross on the lid, and Jesus Christ surrounded by nine of his Apostles on the walls of the container.

K. M.

16. RELIQUARY

Eastern Mediterranean

4th – 5th century

Silver

L. 9,5 cm; max. w. 5 cm; h. 4 cm

Discovered during archaeological excavations of a basilica in Eleshnichka Banya, next to the village of Eleshnitsa, Blagoevgrad region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3768

The silver reliquary was lying in a marble container shaped as a sarcophagus, NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3767.

K. M.

17. RELIQUARY

Syria (?)

Late 4th – early 5th century (ca. 363 – 408 AD)

Silver gilt

L. 8 cm; w. 8 cm; h. 7 cm

The front wall bears a hammered relief of Chi – Rho monogram, and the Greek letters of A and Ω between the X hastae. A Chi – Rho monogram was engraved on the backside, and also the Greek letters of A and Ω below the cross arms.

The reliquary was discovered between two skeletons in Tomb 3 near the southwest corner, by the

apse of the earliest St. Sophia Church in Sofia (Ser-dica) in 1893, during the excavations of Bogdan Filov. It contained remains of decayed cloth and three worn copper coins probably of the sons of Constantine the Great (ca. mid 4th c.).

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 90

K. M.

18. RELIQUARY

Eastern Mediterranean

5th – 6th century

Marble

L. 13 cm; w. 8,2 cm; h. 13,5 cm

Discovered accidentally in a field in 1899, in a brick tomb about 1 m deep, in the altar of Basilica N 5 in Hisar (ancient Diocletianopolis), Plovdiv region.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2328

K. M.

19. RELIQUARY

Syria or Italy (?)

5th – 6th century

Ceramics

L. 17,5 cm; w. 11,5 cm; h. 8 cm

Inscription, beginning with a cross and terminating in an ivy leaf, runs along the four walls incised in Latin before baking:

+ HIC INSUNT / RELIQVIAE // SANCT[I] / THOMAE // APOST[OLI] ET / BABYLAE EP[ISCOPI] // CVM TRI / BUS PAR / VVLIS

Here are the relics of St. Apostle Thomas and Archbishop Babyla and the three infants

An accidental find while ploughing a field next to the village of Perivol, Kyustendil region in 1931. Today Perivol is annexed to the village of Dragovishtitsa, Sofia region.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2916

K. M.

20. RELIQUARY

Southeastern Europe or Asia Minor

Second half of the 5th – 6th century

Limestone

L. 20 cm; w' 15 cm; h. 17,5 cm

*Accidental find from Obzor (former Gyozeken),
Burgas region*

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2047

Incised decoration on the lid, representing a
blooming cross with ivy branches springing from
its base.

K. M.

21. CHALICE

Constantinople

527

Silver

14 x 14 x 10 cm

*Inscriptions in Greek below the mouth and on
the walls: ΥΠΕΡ ΕΥΧΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΣΕΒΩΝ
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΙΟΥΚΤΙΝΙΑΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ
ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑΚ (In honour of the God-loving sov-
ereigns Justinian and Theodora); ΘΟΜ[Α]C
ΥΠΑ[ΤΟ]C ΜΑΡΙC ΥΠΑ[ΤΟ]C ΙΩΑΝΝ[Η]
C ΜΑΡ... / [ΛΙΤΡΑ] Α. ΙΝΔ[ΙΚΤΙΩΝΟ] Σ S
(Consul Thomas, Consul Maris, Johannes Mar. [1
libra] [Indictio] VI*

*Stamps with imperial monograms: ΑΝΑ[Σ]
ΤΑ[ΣΙ]ΟΥ or ΙΟΥ[Σ]ΤΙΝΙΑΝΟΥ*

*Discovered accidentally in Nova Nadezhda (a sec-
tor of Dimitrovgrad), Southeastern Bulgaria, in
1965, in the area of a Medieval fortress*

*Haskovo, Museum of History, Inv. N A 3031
M. V.*

22. STAMP FOR THE CONSECRATED BREAD

Odessos or the region

5th – 6th century

Terracotta

10,3 x 4,2 cm

*Greek characters: on the round surface – illegible;
below – characters in positive: Ο ΚΗ and small
caps below the cross: Ε ΚΑ[ΗΣΙΑ]*

*An accidental find from Ossenov, Varna region,
as there are a Late Antiquity and Early Byzantine
fortress with a church and a tomb with wall paint-
ings from the 4th century*

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N III 533*

A.M.



21

23. CENSER

5th – 6th century

Bronze

9 x 4,5 cm

Borets, Plovdiv region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 2848

Y. G.

24. CYMBAL BELLS

2 pieces

Constantinople (according to late Vassil Vassilev)

Second half of the 6th century

Bronze

15,5 x 16,9 cm; 14 x 16 cm

*Inscriptions in Greek: on one of them: + ΣΕΡΓΙΟΥ
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΕΡΟΥ + (To Presbyter Sergiu); on the
other one – a monogram encrusted with a silver
thread*

*Discovered together with two more similar bells
and other artifacts in a large pithos in Augusta
Traiana – Vereia – Stara Zagora, in 1907*

NAIM – BAS, Inv. NN 4837, 4836

M. V.



22

25. HOLY WATER VESSEL

Odessos

4th – 5th century

Marble

11,5 x 32,5 cm; two-liter capacity

Inscription in Greek: + ΥΙΕΝΩ / Ν ΧΡ[ΙΣΤ]Ω

The purification of Christ

Discovered in 1910 in Vinitsa – today a residential area of Varna (Kambur Cheshma)

Varna, Regional Museum of History,

Inv. N III 219

A.M.



31.1

26. LAMP

Late 4th – mid 5th century

Bronze

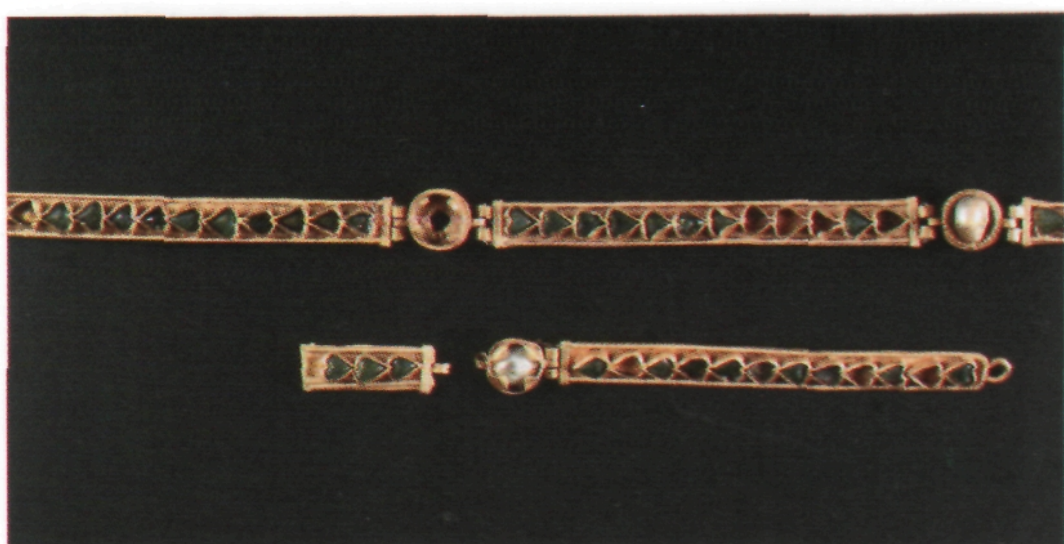
15 x 31 cm

Stara Zagora (Augusta Traiana – Vereia)

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N A 4815

The lamp belongs to the single-holder type. The cover is decorated with a sculptured male head with a helmet facing a dolphin. The handle is shaped as a cross.

Y. G.



31.2

31.3



27. CHANDELIER

Byzantium, Augusta Traiana – Vereia (?)

6th century

Bronze

H. 46 cm

Discovered together with a large number of metal objects probably meant to be re-used in some of the workshops in the town during the late 6th century

NAIM – BAS, Inv. N 4841

M. V.

28. MIRRA NEEDLE

5th – 6th century

Bronze

L. 21 cm

Sadovets, Pleven region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 5215

Embossed image of a bird

Y. G.

29. MIRRA NEEDLE

5th – 6th century

Bronze

L. 19,5 cm

Sadovets, Pleven region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 5216

Embossed image of a bird

30. CHANDELIERS

2 pieces, reconstructed

Byzantium

6th century



31.5



31.4

Silver

H. approximately 60 cm; 70 cm

The fragments were discovered in the fortress of Sadovets, Pleven region, together with many other precious artifacts mentioned in this catalogue.

NIAM - BAS

The chandeliers are shaped as columns with a capital (one of them) and a vase (the other one), decorated with floral ornaments. The one with the capital bears the stamp of Emperor Justinian (527 – 565).

K. M.

31. THE VARNA TREASURE

The treasure was fortuitously found in Varna in 1961, during construction works, at the corner of Knyaz Boris I and Makedonia streets, 1,5 m below the today's walking level. The spot is about 500 m north – east to the Late Antiquity fortress walls of Odessos, near the Roman necropolis of the town (AD 2nd – 3rd centuries). At the area of the find there is evidence of funerals dating from the 4th – 6th centuries.

It has been probably kept within a leather sachet and might have been part of a larger treasure



32a



32b

consisting of gold jewelry belonging to ecclesiastical or secular persons. The presence of additional artifacts and fragments suggests the treasure has been divided in two parts at least, and submitted by the Church or by Odessos authorities in the second half of the 6th – early 7th century to Barbarians (probably the Avars who invaded the Balkans in 580 – 582) in return for captives; the local bishop Martin attested to a similar initiative – in 544 he succeeded in receiving from Emperor Justinian a special privilege for the church community in town (Just. Nov. CXX, 4)

The treasure consists of eight objects or fragments of 22-carat gold, precious and semi-precious stones: pearls, garnet and malachite of a total weight of 417 g. They were produced in different periods between mid 5th and mid 6th centuries, using various techniques peculiar of the Early Byzantine goldsmith's art as forging, engraving, chasing, filigree, granulation, incising, intaglio and encrustment. Some of the pieces were probably fashioned in the imperial workshop of Constantinople, as the bracelets, the incised diadem which is the only one known of its kind, and perhaps the necklace. The rest of the jewels were likely produced in the workshops of Odessos, which were very active in the course of 4th – 6th centuries.

A. M.

31.1. DIADEM

Constantinople

Second half of the 5th century

Gold, pearls, green gems (emeralds?)

32,5 x 1,3 cm; 16,4 g

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N III 557*

31.2. DIADEM A fragment

Odessos

6th century

Gold, opal, pearls, glass

19 x 1,3 cm; 40,8 g

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N III 560*

31.3. NECKLACE

Odessos

Late 5th – 6th century

Gold, pearls, glass

L. 25,6 cm; 25,6 g

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N III 561*

31.4. PECTORAL CROSS – ENCOLPION

Odessos

6th century

Gold, garnet, malachite

7,3 x 5,2 x 0,75 cm; 37,5 g

*Varna, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N III 556*



33

31.5. BRACELET
(the other one of the pair is now in a process of conservation)

Constantinople

6th century

Gold, pearls, glass, enamel

6,3 x 3,4 cm; 109,4 and 112,3 g

Varna, Regional Museum of History,

Inv. N III 555 a - b

31.6. SEGMENTS OF A BELT (?)

Odessos

6th century

Gold, pearls, opal, green enamel

35,2 x 0,75 cm; 39,8 g

Varna, Regional Museum of History,

Inv. N III 554

A.M.

32. PECTORAL CROSS – ENCOLPION

Byzantium

6th century

Gold

3,7 x 2,4 cm; weight of 6,75 g

Inscription in Greek on the back side: ΦΩC ZΩH –
Light – Life

Bezhanovo (probably coming from Sadovets),
Pleven region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2917

Y. G.

33. PECTORAL CROSS – ENCOLPION

Byzantium

Second half of the 6th century

Gold, filigree, amethyst

3,9 x 2,5 cm

Sadovets, Pleven region, discovered during archaeological research in 1934, in the vicinity of a Late Antiquity fortress together with 54 gold coins and 50 copper coins dating from the reign of Justinian (527 – 565) to Maurice Tiberius (582 – 602)

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 2962

Y. G.

34. NECKLACE

A reconstruction

5th – 6th century

Rock crystal, cornelian

Tsarevets Hill, Veliko Tarnovo

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 3478

Y. G.

35. TREASURE FROM AK-ALAN, TURKEY

Five belt appliques, 420 gold and 2 silver coins

Byzantine workshop

7th century

Gold

28,82 g total weight of the appliques; 22 carat gold

Accidental find on March 1913, during the Balkan War, while digging trenches at the Chatal Tepe positions, next to the village of Ak-alan, Turkey

NIAM – BAS, Inv. NN 1328 – 1332

The coins belong to Maurice Tiberius (582 – 602), Phokas (602 – 610), and Herakleios with his son Her-



36

38



39



40



41



akleios Constantine (610 – 641). Most probably the treasure was buried about the mid 7th century during one of the raids against Constantinople.

K. M.

36. KEY

Byzantium

10th – 11th century

Silver

L. 5,4 cm; l. of the rosette 0,019 cm

Discovered during the archaeological research of the administrative centre near the fortress of Perperikon

*Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 12 737*

D. K.

37. MODEL OF A MATRIX FOR PRODUCING A METAL ICON WITH THE SCENE OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Constantinople?

12th – early 13th century

Bronze

10,5 x 12,7 x 1 cm

Provenance unknown

*Stara Zagora, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 3 Sz 438*

D. Y.

38. MEDALLION FROM AN ICON

Byzantium

First half of the 12th century

Bone gold plated

Diam. 2,8 cm; t. 0,2 cm

Discovered together with three more medallions from the same icon during archaeological research

of the Medieval fortress of Assara near Zvezdel Mine, Kardzhali region

*Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 12 208*

A round plate bearing the bust image of an angel in relief.

D. K.

39. MEDALLION FROM AN ICON

Byzantium

First half of the 12th century

Bone, the gilding now damaged

Diam. 2,8 cm; t. 0,2 cm

Discovered in the Medieval fortress of Assara near Zvezdel Mine, Kardzhali region

*Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 12 209*

A round plate bearing the bust image of a saint – warrior in relief.

D. K.

40. MEDALLION FROM AN ICON

Byzantium

First half of the 12th century

Bone gold plated

Diam. 2,8 cm; t. 0,2 cm

Discovered in the Medieval fortress of Assara near Zvezdel Mine, Kardzhali region

*Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 12 210*

A round plate bearing the bust image of a saint – warrior in relief.

D. K.

41. MEDALLION FROM AN ICON

Byzantium

First half of the 12th century

Bone gold plated

Diam. 2,8 cm; t. 0,2 cm

Discovered in the Medieval fortress of Assara near Zvezdel Mine, Kardzhali region

*Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History,
Inv. N 12 211*



42



43

A round plate bearing the bust image of Christ Pantokrator in relief.

D. K.

42. PLATE Restored

Probably Corinth

Second half of the 12th – early 13th century

Ceramics, engobe

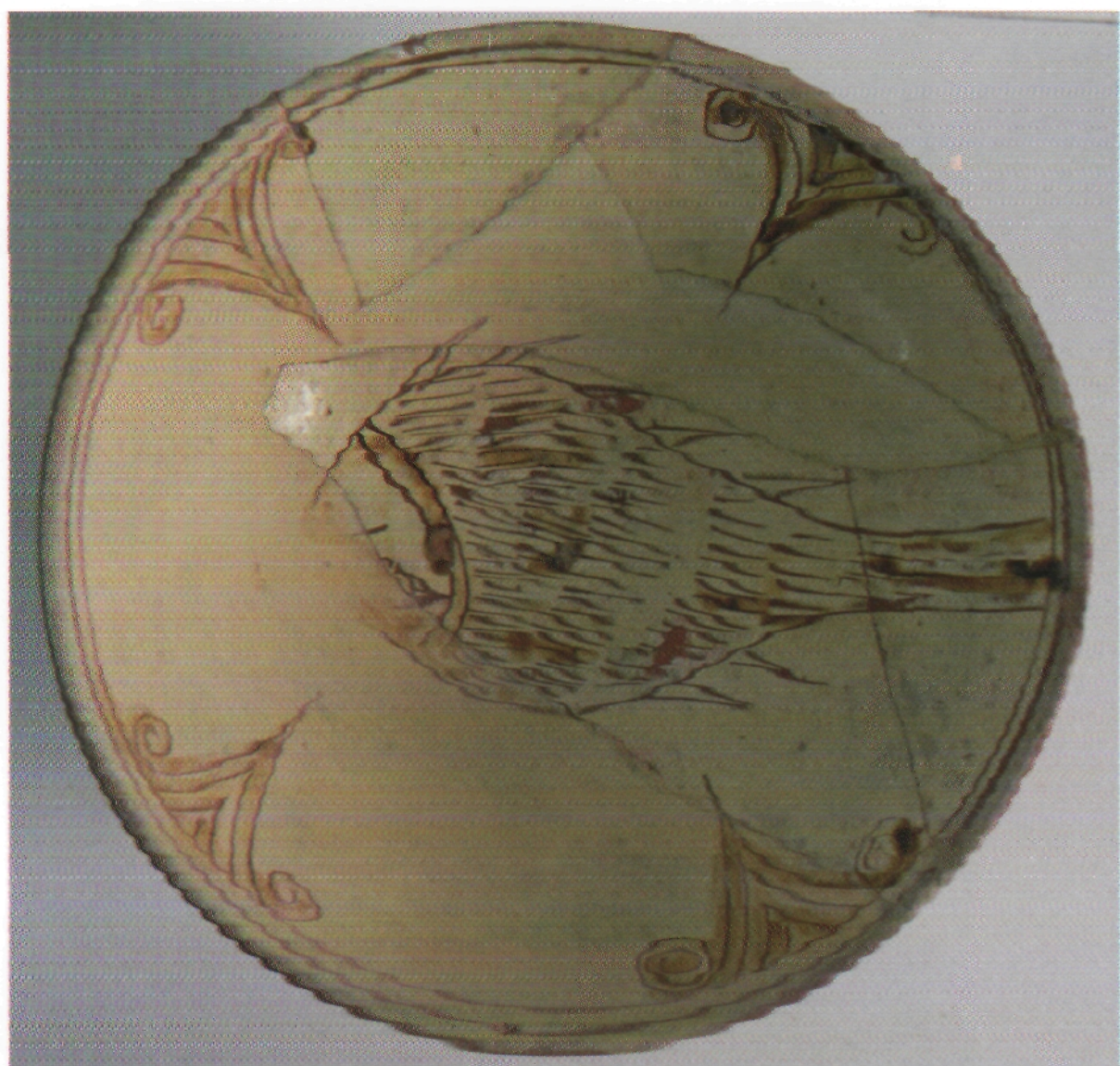
H. 4,8 cm; diam. 24,4 cm

Discovered during archaeological research in Paleocastro area, Anhialo, Burgas region

Anhialo, Inv. N 208

Three animal figures engraved on the bottom – a horse, a running rabbit above it, and likely a similar figure below the horse's legs. Coiling ivy (or wine) sprouts on both sides of the horse

M. D.



46



43. CANDLESTICK
Restored

Local potter's workshop

12th – 13th century

Ceramics

H. 22,7 cm

*Discovered during archaeological research
in Paleocastro area, Anhialo, Burgas region*

Anhialo, Inv. N 206

M. D.

45. BOWL
Restored

Probably Constantinople

12th – early 13th century

Ceramics, engobe

H. 8,2 cm; diam. 21,6 cm

*Discovered during archaeological research
in Paleocastro area, Anhialo, Burgas region*

Anhialo, Inv. N 217

M. D.

44. PLATE
Restored

Probably Constantinople

Second half of the 12th – early 13th century

Ceramics, engobe

H. 4,4 cm; diam. 18 cm

*Discovered during archaeological research
in Paleocastro area, Anhialo, Burgas region*

Anhialo, Inv. N 216

M. D.

46. CERAMICS

Byzantium, Constantinople, Mesambria

Second half of the 12th – early 13th century

Red and white clay, glaze

*Discovered in the territory of the northern coast
of the Old Town in Nessebar, as well as within the
area of the antique and Early Byzantine necropo-
lises. Some of the pieces come from the research in
2007 and 2009.*



48

Old Nessebar Museum, Inv. NN 2891, 126, 149, 150, 152, 167, 168, 169, 170, 280, 287 – 2007; 316, 373 – 2009
T. M., M. D.

47. CERAMICS

Byzantium

12th century

Fine light beige clay, gold and red engobe

Discovered during the archaeological research of the Medieval settlement at the road station of Karasura – Rupkite, Chirpan region, in 1988

Chirpan, Museum of History, Inv. NN 1337, 1338, 1341, 1349, 1350, 1353, 1361, 1363, 1364, 1367, A – KAP 2306
N. Y.

48. ICONOSTASIS

A hypothetical reconstruction

Preslav

10th century

Painted glazed ceramics

50 x 120 cm; central icon 21,8 x 13,6 x 0,5 / 0,6 cm; tiles with vaulted sides 15,5 x 12,5 cm

Inscriptions in Greek

Tiles with vaulted sides to the left, first pair: 1) O A[ΓΙΟΣ] Π[Ε]ΤΡΟΣ (St. Peter) A[...]; 2) O A[ΓΙΟΣ] ΙΩΑΝ[ΝΗΣ] Ο ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤ[ΟΜΟΣ] (St. John Chrysostom); second pair: 1) O A[ΓΙΟΣ] Α[ΜΒΡΟΣΙΟΣ] Ο ΜΕΔΙΟΛΑΝΟ[Σ] (St. Ambrose of Milan); O A[ΓΙΟΣ] ...; third pair: 1) O A[ΓΙΟΣ] ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ (St. Nicholas); 2) O A[ΓΙΟΣ] ΑΘΑΝΑ[ΣΙΟΣ Ο] ΜΕΓΑΣ (St. Athanasios the Great); fourth pair: 1) ...; 2) [Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ...] ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΗΣ (St. Cyril of Alexandria); fifth pair: 1) ... ΥΛΟ ... (St. Paul)

Preslav. The fragments were discovered together with many other artifacts during archaeological research in the course of 1969 – 1978. All of them were in a scrap pit in the area of a workshop for painted ceramics in the Palace Monastery.

Preslav, Museum of Archaeology, Inv. N 2613
T. T.

49. ICON WITH THE TWELVE GREAT FESTIVALS (DODEKAORTON)

Byzantium

12th and the second half of the 14th centuries

Serpentine, silver gilt, wood

16,38 x 13,5 x 2,15 cm; central panel 9,1 x 7,9 cm

Inscriptions in Greek on the central panel:
Ο ΕΥ[Α]ΓΓΕΛΥΣΜΟΣ (Annunciation); Η
Χ[ΡΙΣΤΟ]Υ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ (Nativity); [Η]
ΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ (Presentation); Η ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ (Bap-
tism); Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΙΣ (Transfiguration);
Η ΕΓΕΡΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ (the Raising of
Lazarus); Η ΒΑΙΟΦΟΡΟΣ (the Palms Day);
Η ΣΑΥΡΩΣΙΣ (Crucifixion); Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ
(Resurrection); Η ΑΝΑΛΗΨΙΣ (Ascension); Η
ΠΕΝΤΙΚΟΣΤΗ (Pentecost); Η ΚΟΙΜΗΣΙΣ ΤΙΣ
Θ[ΕΟΤΟ]Κ[ΟΥ] (the Koimesis of the Virgin)

Inscriptions in Greek on the frame, left top
clockwise: Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΓΕΩΡΓ[Γ]Ι[ΟΣ] (St.
George); Η ΕΤΙΜΑΣΙΑ (Etimasia); Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ
ΔΗΜΕΤΡΙ[Ο]Σ (St. Demetrios); [Ο Α] ΓΙΟΣ
[ΜΑΡΚ]ΟΣ (St. Mark); [Ο ΑΓΙ]ΟΣ ΕΛΙΑ[Σ]
(St. Elijah); Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ (St. Nicho-
las); Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ Δ[ΑΜΗΑΝΟΣ] (St. Damian);
Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕ-ΗΜΟ[Ν]ΟΣ (St. Pan-
teleimon); Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΚΟΣΜΑΣ (St. Cosmas);
Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΣ (St. Athanasios); [Ο
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΓΡΙΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΗ[ΟΛΟΓ]ΟΣ (St. Gre-
gory the Theologian); Ο Α[ΓΙΟΣ] ΙΩΑ[ΝΝΗΣ]
(St. John)

It was among the sacred attributes of the Church
of St. Clement (older St. Theotokos Peribleptos) in
Ohrid, Macedonia

National Museum of History, Inv. N 29192
M. I.

50. LITURGICAL EMBROIDERY WITH THE COMMUNION OF THE APOSTLES

15th – 16th century

Red purple silk, blue linen lining, bullion

56 x 42 cm

Liturgical text in Greek: ΠΙΕΤΑΙ ΕΞ ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΠΑΝΤΕΣ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΤΟ ΑΙΜΑ ΜΟΥ ΤΟ
ΤΗΣ ΚΑΙΝΗΣ ΔΙΑΘΙΚΗΣ ΤΟ ΥΠΕΡ ΗΜΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΛΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΑΦΕΣΙΝ ΑΜΑΡΤΙΩΝ
ΑΜΗΝ

Drink all of you from this [chalice]. This is my
blood that from the New Testament [that was shed]
for us and for all to be absolved of sins. Amen

In the early 20th century it was among the sacred
attributes of the Church of St. Clement (older St.
Theotokos Peribleptos) in Ohrid, Macedonia

National Museum of History, Inv. N 29231 a
Y. B.

51. LITURGICAL EMBROIDERY WITH ST. VIRGIN ORANS

Constantinople

1216

Red silk, linen lining, bullion

75 x 55 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: on either sides of the nimbus:
ΜΗ[ΤΗ]Ρ Θ[ΕΟ]Υ (Mother of God); on the frame:
+ Ο ΣΑΡΚΑ ΛΑΒΩΝ ΕΞ ΑΠΕΙΡΑΝΔΡΟΥ
ΚΟΡΗΣ / + ΤΡΟΠΟΙΣ ΑΦΡΑΚΤΟΙΣ Ω Θ[ΕΟ]
Υ Π[Α]ΤΡ[Ο]Σ ΛΟΓΕ, / + ΗΝ ΝΥΝ ΟΡΩΜΕ[Ν]
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΙΣ] [Π]ΡΟΚΕΙΜΕΝΗΝ / + ΕΙΣ
ΕΣΤΙΑCΙΝ ΚΑΝ ΠΑCΙ ΠΑΡΑΞΙΑΝ. / +
ΔΕΞΑΙ ΤΟ ΔΩΡΟΝ ΕΚ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ ΤΟΔΕ
/ + ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΔΟΥΚΑ ΚΑΙ ΔΟΥΚΑΙΝΗC
Μ[ΑΡΙΑC] / + ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΦΥΟΥC ΤΗΣ
ΚΑΛΗΣ CΥΖΥΓΙΑC / + ΑΝΤΙΔΙΔΟΥ ΔΕ
ΨΥΧΙΚΗΝ [CΩΤΗ]ΡΙΑΝ +

Thou, Word of God, Father who was born in an in-
expressible way from the unmarried Virgin, Thou
belongest to people in order to feed them though
none is worthy of that, accept this gift from Theod-
ore Ducas and from his good wife Maria Ducaena
Comnenogeneta and give them in return the salva-
tion of the soul

Coming from the Church of St. Sophia in Ohrid,
Macedonia

National Museum of History, Inv. N 29340
Y. B.

49







52. PROCESSIONAL CROSS

Constantinople

11th century

Bronze

45 x 27 x 0,3 cm

*Inscriptions in Greek: I(HCOY)C X(PHCTO)
C NH – KA at the terminations of the arms, and
MHXAHA next to Archangel Michael*

Provenance unknown

*Veliko Tarnovo Museum of History, Inv. N 6934 c
C. T.*

53. THE PRES LAV TREASURE

The treasure was discovered in Kastana, a few kilometers northeast of Preslav. It is associated with the efflorescence of the Capital city of Tsar Symeon, between the late 9th and early 10th century. Most probably it belonged to an aristocratic family and was buried in the fourth quarter of the 10th century when Knyaz Svetoslav of Kiev invaded Preslav twice before the town surrendered to Constantinople in 971.

The treasure had been accumulated in the course of years and consists mainly of jewelry as well as of some fragments of plates (of a rhyton), spoons and coins.

The objects are made of gold, silver and bronze, combined with colour enamel, precious stones, pearls and rock crystal. The decoration employs floral and geometrical patterns, images of mythological creatures from the Eastern tradition, and also images of birds peculiar of the Christian symbolism.

C. T.

53.1. DIADEM WITH THE ASCENSION OF ALEXANDER

Constantinople

First half of the 10th century

Gold, enamel

5,4 x 4,4 cm (plate)

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.2
M. V.*

53.2. A PAIR OF EARRINGS

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, pearls

12,3 x 5,2 cm; 12 x 5,2 cm

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381 a – b
L. D. – P.*

53.3. EARRING

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, pearls

10,6 x 5 cm

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.6
L. D. – P.*

53.4. A PAIR OF EARRINGS

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, pearls, emerald, amethyst

10 x 4 cm; 9,7 x 4 cm

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.7 a – b
L. D. – P.*

53.5. EARRING WITH FLORAL PATTERNS AND A PEACOCK

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, cloisonné enamel, pearls

10,7 x 4,3 cm

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.8
M. V.*

53.6. EARRING

Byzantium

10 century

Gold, enamel, pearls

7 x 4 cm

*Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.9
M. V.*

**53.7. BILATERAL NECKLACE
WITH PENDANTS**

Byzantium

Late 9th – early 10th century

*Gold, cloisonné enamel, pearls,
rock crystal, glass*

L. 57 cm; 2,5 x 2 cm (plate)

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.1

The enamel centre of the decoration features the images of the Virgin Orans; on the trapezoidal plate the figure is flanked by two crosses. The side plate and medallions bear stylized floral patterns, birds and cruciform motif.

M. V.

53.8. MEDALLION

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, amethyst, pearls

6,9 x 6 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.4

L. D. – P.

53.9. TWO MEDALLIONS

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, emeralds, pearls

Diam. 6,5 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.3 a-b

L. D. – P.

**53.10. NECKLACE BEADS
8 pieces**

Byzantium

10th centuries

Gold

1,6 x 8 / 0,9 cm; 10,90 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.27

L. D. – P.

53.11. NECKLACE BEAD (?)

Byzantium

10th century

Rock crystal

1,8 x 1,4 x 1,2 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.22

L. D. – P.

53.12. NECKLACE PENDANT

Byzantium

10th century

Gold

4 x 1,3 cm; 5 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.23

L. D. – P.

53.13. PENDANT

Byzantium

10th century

Gold

2,1 x 1,1 cm; 5,5 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.19

L. D. – P.

**53.14. PENDANTS (?)
2 pieces**

Byzantium

10th century

1,7 x 1,3 cm; 1,4 / 1,4 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.18

L. D. – P.

**53.15. SIGIL WITH THE SCENE
OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

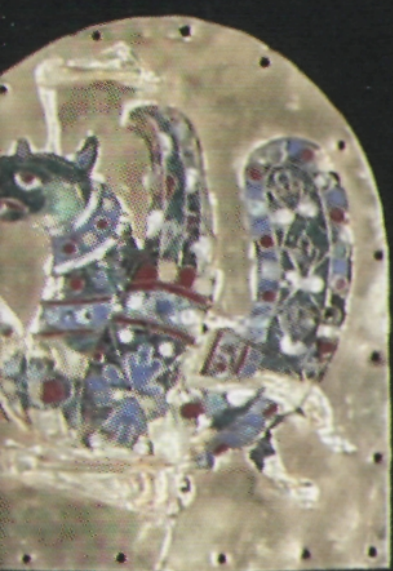
Constantinople

*5th – 6th century, reworked in the first half of
the 10th century*

Rock crystal, gold

3,1 x 1,9 cm; 12,25 g







53.1

Inscription in Greek on the gem between the two figures: X[AIP]E[TICMOC] (Annunciation)

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.36
K. T.

53.16. FINGER RING

Byzantium

10th century

Gold, garnet

1,8 cm (diamond circle); 2,1 cm (diamond bed); 8,65 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.15
S. S.

53.17. FINGER RING

Byzantium

10th century

Gold

2 x 0,75 cm; 5,9 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.14
L. D. – P.



53.1a

53.18. BUTTONS 2 pieces

Byzantium

First half of the 10th century

Gold, cloisonné enamel, vitriol paste

3 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.16
M. V.

53.19. BUTTONS 3 pieces

10th century

Gold

1,5 x 0,9 x 0,55 cm; 1 x 1,6 x 0,5 cm;

1,5 x 1 x 0,4 cm; 6,36 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.20
L. D. – P.

53.20. ORNAMENTATION

Preslav

9th century

Gold

2,2 x 2,2 x 0,85 cm; 5,38 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.17
S. S.



53.2

53.21. ORNAMENTATIONS
7 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Gold

1,4 x 0,4 cm; 0,7 – 8,3 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.21

S. S.

53.22. APPLIQUÉS
56 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Silver gilt

0,11 x 0,125 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.28

S. S.

53.23. APPLIQUÉS
2 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Gold, enamel

2,35 x 2,35 cm; 2,9 / 2,2 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.29

S. S.



53.3

53.24. APPLIQUÉS
10 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Gold

1,55 x 1,55 cm; 6,84 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.30

S. S.

53.25. APPLIQUÉS
15 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Silver gilt

1,65 x 1,75 cm; 0,77 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.31

S. S.



53.4



53.7



53.26. APPLIQUÉS
11 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Silver gilt

1,7 x 1,7 cm; 0,7 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.32

S. S.

53.29. APPLIQUÉS
3 pieces

Preslav

10th century

Silver gilt

Diam. 0,24 cm; 1,85 / 1,6 / 1,53 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.34

S. S.

53.27. APPLIQUÉS
2 pieces

10th century

Silver gilt

Diam. 1,8 cm; 1,01 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.33

S. S.

53.30. RING

10th century

Gold

Diam. 2,7 cm; 11,62 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.34

S. S.

53.28. APPLIQUÉ

Byzantium

10th century

Silver gilt

4,5 x 3,3 cm; 8,3 g

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.13

Decorated with a kantharos flanked by two peacocks

S. S.

53.31. A PAIR OF SPOONS

Byzantium

10th century

Silver

L. 23 / 20,5 cm

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.51 - 52

S. S.

53.32. COINS

15 silver miliarensii of Constantine VII and
Romanus II (945 – 959)

Veliki Preslav Museum, Inv. N 3381.35
S. S.



53.8

54. PATEN

Constantinople

The first half of the 9th century

Gold

Diam. 20,5cm; 336 g; 22 carat gold

Inscription in Greek: + ΛΑΒΕΤΕ ΦΑΓΕΤΕ
ΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΤΟ ΣΩΜΑ ΜΟΥ ΤΟ /
ΥΠΕΡ ΥΜΩΝ ΚΛΩΜΕΝΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΑΦΕΣΙΝ
ΑΜΑΡΤΩΝ

Take this bread, it is body torn into pieces for for-
givenness of sins

Discovered in 1949 during archaeological research
of the southern gates of Veliki Preslav, in the soil
covering a basement

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3770

Decorated with a cross. The inscription refers
to the Gospels according to St. Mathew (26. 26)
and St. Mark (14. 22)

S. G.



53.9

55. CHALICE

Pliska

10th century

Glazed ceramics

17,6 x 13,5 x 10 cm

Discovered in a church mentioned in the excava-
tion reports from 1948 under N 36, in the Outer
area of the Medieval town of Pliska

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 4582

L. D. – P.



53.15

56. ASTERISKOS

Veliki Preslav, Western Palace

13th – 14th century

Bronze

Unfolded length 20 cm; w. 0,8 – 1 cm; t. 0,1 cm; h.
of the arc 6,5 cm



53.16

53.18



*Inscription in Greek: + ΛΕΟΝ·ΑΝΑΠΑΡ
ΤΟΛΟΝ+ΚΟΝ (ligature)*

Discovered within a layer of destruction of a representative building south of the Royal Palace in Veliki Preslav

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 6000
S. G.

57. LITURGICAL STRAINER

10th – 13th century

Copper

L. 17,9 cm; diam. of the bowl 8 cm; depth of the bowl 1,5 cm

Discovered during archaeological research of the Royal Church in the Palace complex of Veliki Preslav

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 6037
S. G.

53.19



58. LITURGICAL STRAINER

10th – 13th century

Copper

L. 22,5 cm; diam. of the bowl 7,3 – 7,8 cm; depth of the bowl 2,5 cm

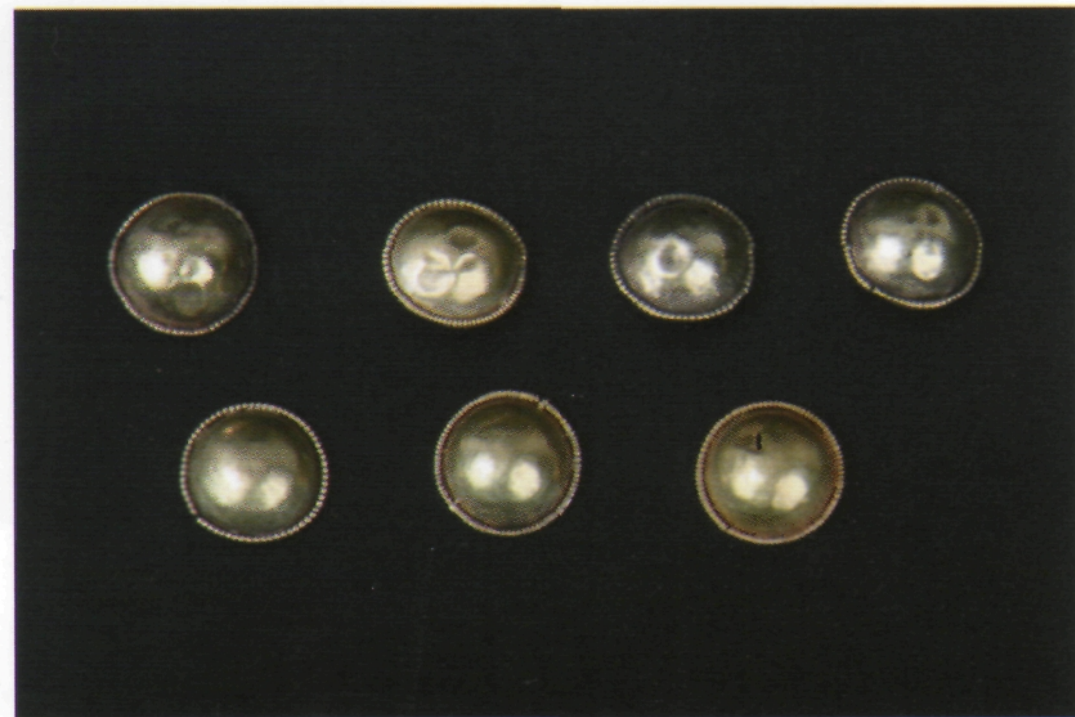
Discovered during archaeological research of the southern gates of the Inner town of Veliki Preslav

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3775
S. G.

53.20



53.21



59. CENSER

Byzantium

11th – 12th century

Bronze

Max. l. 27,1 cm; diam. of the reservoir 8,5 cm; h. 2,9 cm

Discovered in the Medieval fortress of Assara near the Zvezdel Mine, Kardzhali region

Kardzhali, Regional Museum of History, Inv. N 12 220
D. K.

53.24





54

60. AMPULLA – EULOGIA

Thessalonike

Late 11th – 12th century

Lead

H. 6,6 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: ΔΗΜΗΤ – in the medallion with the image of the saint, on the right of the body; ΠΙΟC – on the left, vaguely

Discovered during regular archaeological research, next to the central apse of the Royal Basilica in Veliki Preslav, within a layer of stone and mortar

*NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 6194
S. G.*

61. ICON WITH ST. THEODORE Reconstructed

Work of a ceramic workshop in Preslav

Late 9th – early 10th century

Clay, glaze

55 x 44 cm

Discovered in 1909, during archaeological research of the monastery in Patleina, southwest of Veliki Preslav

NAIM – BAS, Inv. N 4880

21 tiles survived from the whole composition (about 100 fragments used in the reconstruction),



59

each in size of 11,5 x 11,5 cm, arranged upon a natural clay bedding. St. Theodore is identified according to an inscription on three of the tiles, written in Greek capital characters.

K. M.

62. ICON WITH ST. VIRGIN ODIGITRIA

Constantinople

Early 14th century

Mosaic with glass tesserae

104,5 x 80,7 x 5,5 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: on both sides of the nimbus of the Virgin: ΜΗΡ ΘΥ Η[ΟΔ]ΗΓΗΤΡΙΑ (Mother of God Odigitria); over the nimbus of Jesus Christ: IC XC (Jesus Christ)

Discovered in Eregli, Turkey, the antique Heraclea Thracis, in the Church of St. George

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2513

E. B.

63. ICON WITH ST. VIRGIN ELEUSA

1341 – 1342, with interpolations and reworking

Tempera on wood, silver gilt

130 x 107 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: top, on either side of the Virgin's head: ΜΗΡ ΘΥ Η ΕΛΕΟΥΣΑ (Mother of God, Our Lady of Tenderness); to the medallions with archangels Ο ΑΡΧ ΜΙΧ[ΑΗΛ] (Archangel Michael) Ο ΑΡΧ ΓΑΒΡΙΗΛ (Archangel Gabriel); in the scene of The Presentation in the Temple:

ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ Τ[ΩΝ] ΑΓΙΩΝ (Saint of Saints); in the scene of The Betrothal of Mary to Joseph: Ο ΙΩΣΙΦ ΠΑΡΑΛ[ΑΜ]ΒΑΝ[ΟΝ] ΤΥΣ Θ[Ε]ΟΤΟΚ[ΟΥ] (Joseph Takes Mary); left to Virgin Mary: + ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΟΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΣΕΒΕΣΤΑΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΙΩ[ΑΝΝΟΥ] ΤΟΥ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Κ[ΑΙ] ΤΟΥ ΥΙΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ / ΕΥΣΕΒΕΣΤΑΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Μ[Ι]Χ[ΑΗΛ] ΤΟΥ ΑΣΣΑΝΗ / ΤΟΝ ΕΚ ΧΡΥΣΑΡΓΥΡΟΥ ΤΟΥΤΟΝ ΚΑΤΑΣΚΕΥΑΣΘΕΝΤΑ / ΚΟΣΜΟΝ ΕΝ ΤΑΥΤΗ ΤΗ / ΠΑΝΣΕΒΑΣΘΩ Κ[ΑΙ] ΘΕΙΑ / ΕΙΚΟΝΤΗΣ Θ[Ε]ΟΤΟΚ[ΟΥ] ΕΞ / ΑΓΑΠΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΤΙΜ[ΩΣ] ΕΘΕΜΗΝ (+ In the years of the reign of the pious and great Tsar Ivan Alexander and his son the pious Tsar Michael Assen, this holy and divine icon of Virgin Mary, made entirely of gold and silver, was set here with devotion); right of Virgin Mary, top: + ΕΝ ΕΤΕΙ 6850 (= 1341 / 2) Ο ΠΕΡΙΠΟΘΗΤΟΣ Κ[ΑΙ] ΓΝΗΣΙΟΣ / ΘΕΙΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΥΨΗΛΟΤΑΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΙΩ[ΑΝΝΟΥ] / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΑΝΕΚΑΙΝΙΣΑ Τ[ΩΝ] ΠΑΝΣΕΠΤΟΝ Κ[ΑΙ] ΘΕΙΟΝ ΝΑΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΗΣ ΔΕΣΠΟΙΝΗΣ / ΗΜ[ΩΝ] [ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ] ΤΗ[Σ] ΕΛΕΙΟΥ[Σ]ΗΣ (+ In the year 6850 (= 1341 / 2) I, the beloved consanguine uncle of the majestic Tsar Ivan Alexander, restored the august and divine naos of the blessed Mother of God, Our Lady of Mercy); lower and in smaller characters, continued: ΠΡΟΣΕΘΗΚΑ ΔΕ ΤΗ[Ν] ΑΓ[ΙΑ] ΑΥ[ΤΗ] ΜΟΝΗ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ / ΜΕΤΑ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ ΘΥΜΙΑΤΗΡΙΟΝ ΑΡΓΥΡΟΝ ΜΕΤΑ / ΣΚΕΠΑΣΜΑ ΠΟΔΕΑΣ ΓΧΡΥΣΟΚ[Ο]Λ[ΛΗΤΑΣ] / ΚΑΙ ΑΗΡΕΤΕΡΑ ΠΟΔΕΑ. Κ[ΑΙ] ΕΠΙΤΡΑΧΙΛΙΟΝ ΜΕΤΑ / ΜΑΡΓΑΡΟΥ ΔΥΣΚΟΠΟΤΗΡΙΟΝ ΑΣΤΗΡ ΛΑΒΙΔΑ ΑΡΓΥΡΑ / ΕΠΙΜΑΝΙΚΑ ΧΡΥΣΟΚ[Ο]

Λ[ΛΗΤ]Α ΒΑΡΙΚ[ΤΙΜ]Α Β ΖΙΓΑΣ. / ΜΕΤΑ
ΜΑΡΓΑΡΟΥ ΟΡΑΡΙ[Α] Β ΑΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΛΑ
ΕΙΤΙ. ΠΡΟΣΘΗΣΟΜΕΝ ΕΙΤΕ ΑΡΓΥΡΟΝ
ΙΤΕ ΧΡΥΣΟΝ ΒΙΒΛΙΑ ΕΞ ΑΥΤΩΝ ΕΙ ΤΙΣ
ΝΟΣΦΙΣΕΤΕ ΙΝΑ ΚΛΙΡΟΝΟΜ[Ε]Ι ΤΑΣ
[ΚΑΤ]ΑΡΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ ΔΕΚΑ
ΚΑΙ ΟΚΤΩ ΘΕΟΦΟΡΩΝ / Π[ΑΤΕ]ΡΩΝ
ΕΣΤΩ ΚΑΙ ΗΠΕΡ ΙΣΑ[ΖΕΙ] ΤΟ ΜΕΓΑ ΤΟΥ /
ΠΡΟΔΟΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΙΟΥΔΑ Η ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧ[ΗΣ]
Η / Μ[Η]ΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ Η ΚΕΦΑΛΙΗ Η
ΕΞΟΥΣ[ΙΑΣΤΗΣ] Η ΤΙΣ / ΤΩΝ ΤΥΧΩ[Ν]
ΤΩΝ (I presented to the same monastery an illu-
minated gospel, a silver incense cup with coating,
three podei, expensive brocades and an aer and a
big stole with pearls, a collecting plate, a chalice,
an asterisk, a spoon, two pairs of cuffs in bul-
lion, two oraria with pearls and other gifts. Also
I donated silver, gold and books. He who dares to
steal some [of those things] shall be cursed by the
380 church fathers and even be likened to the arch
traitor Judas, be he a patriarch, a bishop, a chief,
a man of power or an ordinary man...); on the
border of the cloak of Virgin Mary: [+ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ]
ΒΑΣΙΛ[ΕΙΑΣ] ΙΩ[ΑΝΝΟΥ] ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ
ΚΑΙ / Μ[Ι]Χ[Α]ΗΛ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΑΝ Ο ΠΡ[Ο]
ΓΟ[ΝΟΣ] ΘΕΙΟΣ Α[ΥΤΩΝ] / [ΣΑ]ΜΟΗΛ [...] ΤΟΥΤΟΝ ΤΟ[Ν] ΑΩΡΤΩ[Ν] ΣΤΕ[ΦΑΝΟΝ] /
ΠΡΟΣΗΛΕ (+ In the years of the reign of Ivan Al-
exander and of Michael Assen, their consanguine
uncle Samuel set this sublime crown).

In the 19th century the icon was in the Church of
St. Stephan (the New Metropolitan Church) in
Nessebar

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 125
G. G.

64. PROCESSIONAL ICON FROM POGANOVO

Thessalonike

Second half of the 14th century

Tempera on wood

92,6 x 61,5 x 2,5 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: on one side next to Vir-
gin: ΜΗ[ΤΗ]Ρ Θ[ΕΟ]Υ ΚΑΤΑΦΥΓΗ (Mother
of God, Our Lady of Refuge); next to St. John:
Ο ΑΓ[ΙΟΣ] ΙΩ[ΑΝΝΗΣ] Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ (St.
John the Theologian); between the Virgin and St.
John: [ΕΝ] Χ[ΡΙΣΤ]Ω ΤΩ Θ[Ε]Ω [ΠΙΣ]ΤΗ
ΒΑΣΙ[ΛΙΣ]Σ[Α] (In Christ the God the pious em-
press).

On the other side, next to Christ: Ι[Η]ΣΟΥ]Σ
Χ[ΡΙΣΤΟ]Σ (Jesus Christ); around the nimbus
of Jesus Christ: Ο ΕΝ ΤΟ ΛΑΤΟΜΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑ
(The miracle in Latom); on the scroll held by
Christ: ΙΔΟΥ Ο Θ[Ε]ΟΣ ΗΜ[ΩΝ] ΕΦ[ΟΝ]
ΕΛΠΗΖΟΜ[ΕΝ] Κ[ΑΙ] / Η[Γ]ΑΛΙΩΜΕΘΑ
ΕΠΙ ΤΗ Σ[ΩΤΗ]ΡΙΑ ΗΜ[ΩΝ]. ΑΥΤΟ[Σ] /
ΛΩΣΕΙ ΑΝΑΠΑΥΣ[ΙΝ] ΤΩ ΟΙΚΩ ΤΟΥΤΩ
(This is our Lord. We believe in Him and rejoice
in our salvation. He brought peace to this home);
beside the evangelists: Μ (Mathew); ΙΩ (John);
Μ (Mark); Λ (Luke); beside Ezekiel: ΠΡΟΦΤ
ΙΕ[ΖΕ]ΚΙΗΛ (Prophet Ezekiel); beside Habakkuk:
[ΠΡΟΦΤ] ΑΒΒΑΚΟΥΜ (Prophet Habakkuk); on
the book held by Habakkuk: + ΥΙΕ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ
ΚΑΤΑΦΑΓΕ ΤΗΝ Κ[ΑΙ]ΦΑΛΙΔΑ ΤΑΥ[Τ]Η[Ν]
(Son of Man, eat this scroll).

From St. John Monastery
in Poganovo, Serbia

60a



60b







NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 2057

One side represents the Virgin with the rare epithet of Kataphygi (Refuge) and St. John the Theologian, patron of the monastery in Poganovo.

The other side shows a Theophany of the Old Testament: the Miracle in Latom.

G. G.

65. PENDANT ICON WITH ST. GEORGE

Byzantium, Thessalonike

12th century

Greyish – greenish steatite

7,4 x 4,5 cm

Inscription in Greek: Ο ἅγιος Γεώργιος

An accidental find from Silistra

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 3373

B. T.

66. ICON WITH ST. THEODORE STRATELATES (A fragment)

Byzantium, Constantinople

11th – 12th century

Light green steatite

H. 7,2 cm; w. 4 cm; t. 0,055 cm

Discovered during archaeological research on Tsarevets Hill, Veliko Tarnovo, in 1975

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 5946

B. T.

67. ICON WITH ST. DEMETRIOS

The Balkan area

12th – 13th century (the plate) and 14th century (the case)

Pale green steatite (the plate); silver with traces of gilt (the case)

5,8 x 5,4 cm (the plate); 4,5 x 4,1 x 0,9 cm (the case)

Discovered in Chernomashtitsa (Serbia), together with pieces of garments and jewelry dating from the 14th century

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 346

M. V.

68. MEDALLION WITH AN ARCHANGEL

Preslav

9th – 10th century

Painted and glazed ceramics

3 x 4 cm

Discovered in Preslav, during archaeological research in 1945, east of the Round Church

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1814

T. T.

69. MEDALLION WITH ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Veliko Tarnovo

11th – 12th century

Ceramics

Diam. 3,6 cm; t. 0,35 cm

Inscription in Greek: ΜΗΧΑΗΛ

Discovered during archaeological research of the Patriarchal Church on the Tsarevets Hill in 1900

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1814

B. T.

70. FRAGMENT OF AN ICON WITH THE SCENE OF KOIMESIS

Byzantium

Mid 10th century

Ivory

17 x 3,5 x 1,2 cm

Discovered in Veliko Tarnovo, during archaeological research in 1900 – 1901 on Trapesitsa Hill

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1809

K. T.

71. ICON – RELIQUARY

Constantinople

11th – 12th century

Gold, enamel

5,3 x 3,7 x 0,5 cm; 76 g

Inscriptions in Greek: on the lid, at both sides of the image, in medallions: M(HT)HP O(EO)Y – Mother of God; on the container, at both sides of the cross, in blue enamel: I(HCOY)C X(PHCTO) C – Jesus Christ





64a



Discovered in a grave in the vicinity of the town of Elena, towards the Capital city of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, Tarnovgrad

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 487

St. Virgin Mary is represented on the lid, her hands outstretched toward a piece of the sky with the blessing hand coming out of it. The backside of the container displays a large cross flanked by cypresses.

M. V.

72. ENAMELED DISC WITH ST. AKEPSIMAS

Byzantium

12th century

Gold, cloisonné enamel

Diam. 1,5 cm; 0,88 g

Inscription in Greek: ΑΚΕΨΗΜΑC (Akepsimas)

Discovered on the Tsarevets Hill in Veliko Tarnovo, in the area of the Medieval Royal Palace

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 340

B. T.

73. FRAME OF AN ICON (Fragments)

Byzantium

12th century

Copper gilt



67a

7 x 0,02 cm; 6,5 x 0,022 cm; 0,022 x 0,024 cm

Inscriptions in Greek: Ο ἅ[γιος] ΒΑΣΙΛΗΟC;
Ο ἅ[γιος] ΝΗΚΟΛΑ; Ο ἅ[γιος]
ΙΩΟΠΡΟΙΡΟΜΟC; Ο ἅ[γιος] ΓΕΟΡΓΗΟC;
Ο ἅ[γιος] ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΗΜΟΝ; Ο ἅ[γιος]
ΘΕΟΔΟ[ΡΟC]

The pieces were discovered during archaeological research on Trapezitsa Hill, Veliko Tarnovo, in 1900

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1808

B. T.

74. CHRIST BLESSING

Constantinople

12th – 13th century

Marble

1,09 x 0,38 x 0,07 m

Discovered in four separate parts – the upper one re-used in the Church of St. George, and the other three at different spots in the Old town of Nessebar and outside it

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1092

M. V.

75. CAPITAL

Byzantium, Constantinople or a workshop in Nessebar?

10th – 12th century



67b



71

Marble, grey Prokonnesos type

H. 0,27 m; lower base 0,20 x 0,20 m; upper base 0,29 x 0,29 m

Discovered in the annex to St. George Golemi Church in Nessebar, in 1914

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1489

B. T.

76. CAPITAL

Byzantium, Constantinople or a workshop in Nessebar?

10th – 12th c.

Marble

H. 0,16 m; lower base 0,21 x 0,21 m; upper base 0,27 x 0,27 m

Discovered in the annex to St. George Golemi Church in Nessebar

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1488

B. T.

77. SET OF BELT APPLIQUÉS FROM MADARA

Byzantine workshop

8th – 9th century

Gold, green, blue and black glass paste

Total weight of 33,45 g



Discovered at the foot of the Madara Horseman, in a grave of a Christian orientation, open during the research of a monumental complex of buildings from the last quarter of the 9th century

NIAM – BAS, Inv. NN 2427 – 2431

P. D.

78. BOWL OF SIVIN, GRAND ZHUPAN OF BULGARIA

Byzantium

Mid 9th century

Silver

H. 5,2 cm; diam. 9,2 cm



72



*Inscription in Greek on the bottom: K[ΥΠΙ]Ε
ΒΟ[Η]ΘΗ + ΧΒΗΝ ΖΟΥΠΑΝΟΣ ΜΕΓΑ-
ΧΕ ΒΟΥΡΓΑΡΗΑΝ*

Lord, help + Sivin, grand zhupan of Bulgaria

Discovered in the Outer town of Veliki Preslav. According to some data, it was a gift in a Medieval Christian grave.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 4881

P. D.

79. PYRAMIDAL SIGILOFTSARSYMEON

Byzantium, Constantinople (?)

Late 9th century, probably right after 893

Gold, azure stone

H. 21 mm, together with the hook 23 mm; working surface 7 x 9 mm; weight of 5,2 g; 22 carat gold

Inscriptions in Greek: the name of the Tsar [C] VMEΩNIC – V, M, C – on the right of the image's shoulder; E, Ω, N, I, C – on the left

Discovered all together with other imperial and royal seals during archaeological research of a building from a large residential complex between the western fortress wall of the Inner town of Veliki Preslav and the Palace Monastery, in 1986

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 6211

M. V.



80. FINGER RING

5th – 6th century

Silver

Diam. 2,1 cm

Monogram of Barbara

Discovered in the old basin of Aytoski Bani, Burgas region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 908

Y. G.

81. FINGER RING

5th – 6th century

Silver

Diam. 2,3 cm

Monogram of Alexander

Svishtov

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 541

Y. G.

82. FINGER RING

5th – 6th century

Gold

Diam. 2 cm

Greek characters: KE BO

Provenance unknown

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 3281

Y. G.

83. FINGER RING

11th – 12th century

Gold

Diam. 2,7 cm

Monogram of Nikephoros

Discovered in the old basin of Aytoski Bani, Burgas region

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N C 909

Y. G.

84. STONE SLAB WITH A LION

Byzantium

Late 10th – early 11th century

Red schist

0,97 x 0,755 x 0,047 m

Stara Zagora, Besh Bunar site, 1909

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 853

S. G.

85. STONE SLAB WITH PEACOCKS

Byzantium

Late 10th – early 11th century

Red schist

1,35 x 1,00 x 0,065 m

Stara Zagora, Besh Bunar site, 1909

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 853

S. G.

86. STONE SLAB WITH A DOUBLE HEADED EAGLE

Byzantium

Late 10th – early 11th century

Red schist

1,08 x 0,725 x 0,075 m

Stara Zagora, Besh Bunar site, discovered all together with the other stone slabs in 1909

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 854

S. G.





85

87. STONE SLAB WITH A WOMAN PLAYING FLUTE

Byzantium

Late 10th – early 11th century

Red schist

1,08 x 0,725 x 0,075 m

Nova Zagora region, discovered in 1896

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 317

S. G.

88. SCULPTURE OF A LION

10th – 12th century

Marble

H. 0,35 m; l. 0,58 m

According to the Inventory Book, the sculpture was discovered in the village of Ladzha Kyoy (Makri) on the Aegean Sea, Greece, and entered the Museum of Archaeology in 1917. Later it was published as coming from Preslav.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1752

S. G.

89. SLAB FROM A SARCOPHAGUS

Traianopolis ad Hebrum

1067

Marble

L. 2,14 m; h. 0,82 m; t. 0,10 m

Discovered in Ladzhakyoy, Dedeagac, Southwestern Thrace, Greece

Inscription in Greek:



86

+ Έτους ςφδζ ἀρχ(ῆς) κ(όσμου) μηνὴ ἰανουαρίῳ ιη ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος) ζ τῇ
 ἡμέ(ρᾳ) κ(υριακῇ) ἀλεκτωροφ[ων]ίας ἐκυμήθ(η) Νικόλαος π(ατ)ρί(κιος) ἀνθύ-
 πατ(ος) πρωτοβες(τιάριος) ὁ Βαλτζέρης τὸν [αἰ]ώνιον ὕπνον ἐν κάστρῳ Μαμήσ-
 τ(ης) Συρίας ἐνοικ(ῶν) κατήγαγόν τε αὐτὸν ἐν Τραϊανουπόλει θέμα Μακεδονίας.

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 1750
 S. G.

90. STONE BLOCK WITH A GRAFFITO DRAWING

Veliki Preslav

Late 9th – 10th century

Limestone

H. 0,265 m; max. w. 0,195 m; max. t. 0,18 m

Inscriptions in Greek: IC XC NI KA and M[HTH]
 P Θ[E]OY. Both inscriptions are between the arms
 of a cross above a pulpit.

Discovered during archaeological research, among
 the destructions of the Royal Church

NIAM – BAS, Inv. N 5998

A three – aisle church with a pulpit inside is
 incised.

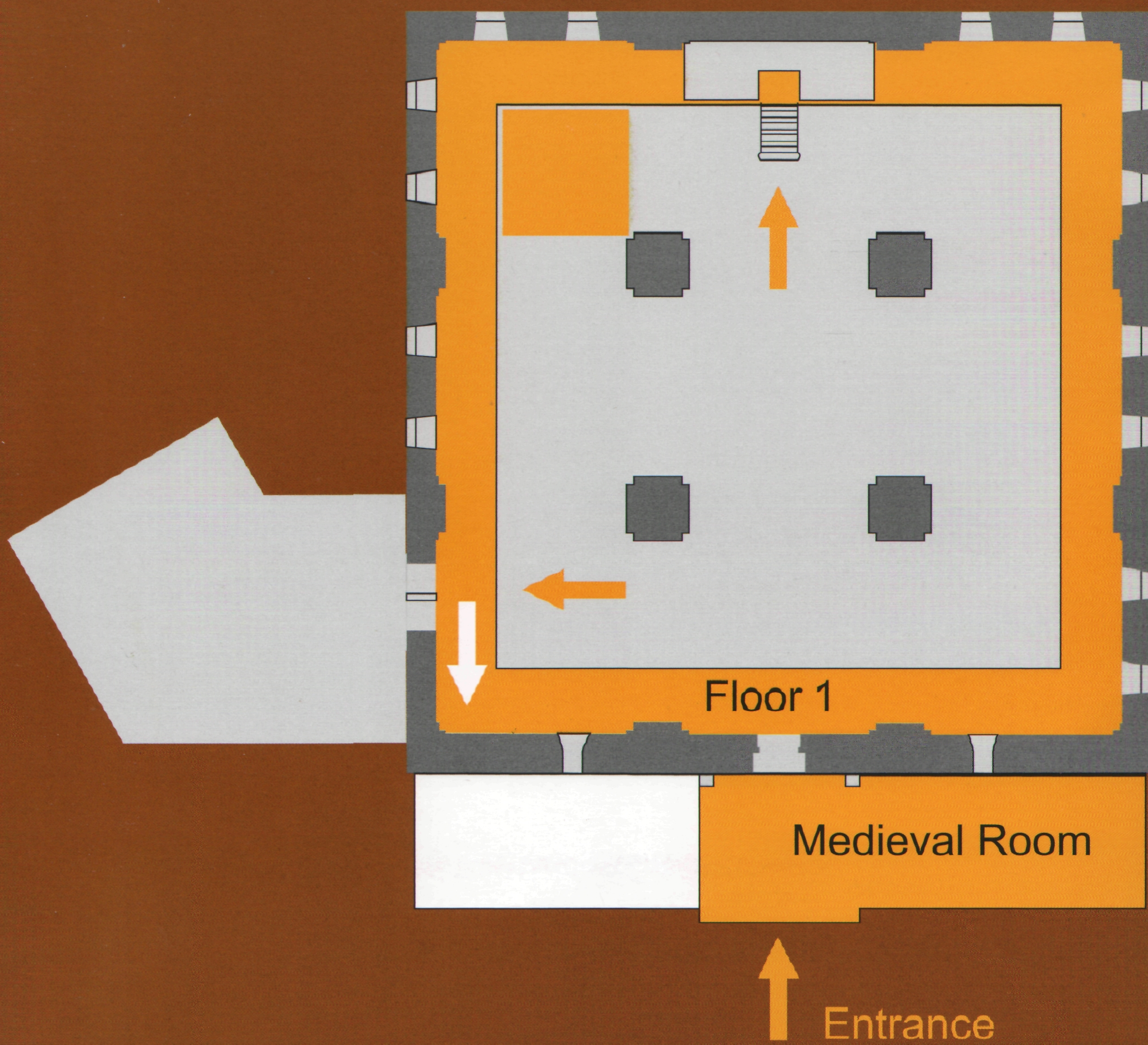
S. G.

BULGARIA *in the* BYZANTINE WORLD

EXHIBITION

22ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BYZANTINE STUDIES

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA – THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY WITH MUSEUM – SOFIA
AUGUST 24TH – SEPTEMBER 30TH 2011



National Museum of Archaeology



National Museum of Archaeology
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria; Atanas Burov Square
+3592 988 2406; www.naim.bg



ISBN 978-954-9472-10-3



9 789549 472103